

Severe Respiratory Illness Associated With Vaping – Idaho update

Last updated: January 17, 2020

Cases among Idaho residents: 13

Public health district of residence	Number of hospitalized cases	Number of cases not hospitalized	Total
Panhandle Health District	0	1	1
North Central District Health	1	0	1
Southwest District Health	2	0	2
Central District Health	4	0	4
South Central District Health	1	0	1
Southeastern Idaho Public Health	2	0	2
Eastern Idaho Public Health	2	0	2



The Idaho Division of Public Health (DPH) is currently working together with local public health districts statewide to investigate reports and identify cases of severe pulmonary illnesses associated with e-cigarette use, also known as vaping, juuling, or dabbing. Idaho DPH is also coordinating with federal and state partners in the investigation of this nationwide outbreak. As of January 14th, 2020, a total of 2,688 hospitalized cases and 60 deaths nationwide have been reported to the CDC.

Nationwide, patients have experienced respiratory symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, and chest pain. Other signs and symptoms included fever, fatigue, weight loss, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Many patients reported symptoms worsening over time. Many patients were otherwise healthy young adults. Products used by patients may contain THC, CBD, nicotine, flavors, and other chemicals. Laboratory data indicate that vitamin E acetate, an additive in some THC-containing vaping products, is closely associated with lung injury. As of January 17, 85% of Idahoans with severe pulmonary illnesses associated with e-cigarette or vaping use reported vaping a nicotine-containing substance and 92% self-reported vaping a THC-containing substance. Idaho public health officials, CDC, and FDA recommend that people should not use THC-containing vaping products, particularly from informal sources like friends, family, or in-person or online sellers.

Whom to call

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider. If it is a medical emergency call 9-1-1.

Healthcare providers treating patients with unexplained serious respiratory illness in patients who mention e-cigarette use, vaping, or dabbing should notify DPH Epidemiologists at 208-334-5939 (Fax: 208-332-7307).

Resources (also on www.epi.idaho.gov)

[Outbreak of Severe Pulmonary Disease Associated with Using E-cigarette Products](#) (CDC)

[Update: Interim Guidance for Health Care Providers](#) (MMWR)

[Project Filter- Idaho Fights Tobacco](#)



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